

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claim 2 contains allowable subject matter.

I. Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-4 are pending in this application. Claim 1 is an independent claim and claims 3 and 4 depend directly from claim 1. Claim 2 has been rewritten into independent form. Further, claims 1 and 3 have been amended by this reply. No new matter was added by way of these amendments.

II. Objections

The title was objected to because it was not considered to be descriptive. Therefore, the title has been amended to include the phrase "Having a Frame for Supporting a Half Mirror." Accordingly withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Additionally, the Applicant has provided a copy of the entire Japanese Patent No. B-6-30165 and a copy of the abstract of Japanese Patent No. A-58-082212 to comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3). In view of the provided copies, in addition to the fact that the Examiner has relied upon the content of Japanese Patent No. A-58-082212 with respect to the §103 rejection, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Information Disclosure Statement filed on September 26, 2001 be fully considered, initialed, and returned.

III. Rejections under 35 U.S.C § 103

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,592,459 ("Kasahara") or U.S. Patent No. 6,584,061 ("Yanagisawa") over Japanese Patent No. A-58-082212 (hereinafter "Akira"). Claim 1 has been amended in this reply to clarify the present invention recited. To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Present Invention

The present invention relates to a pickup apparatus for a disk player for optically reading information on a disk, which is arranged in the disk player. The pickup apparatus includes a pickup, a light emitting portion, a half mirror, a detecting portion, and a frame. The pickup is used for irradiating light on the disk and receiving the light reflected from the disk. The light emitting portion transmits light to the pickup. In one or more embodiments of the present invention, the light-emitting portion is a laser diode.

The plate shaped half mirror reflects the light from the light-emitting portion to the pickup. The light emitted from the light-emitting portion may permeate the half mirror to the detecting portion. The frame "houses" the pickup, the light emitting portion, and the detection portion at predetermined positions. In particular, the side part of the half mirror is fixed to the vertical wall of the frame at three points using an adhesive agent.

Advantageously, the present invention allows for the half mirror to be installed in the frame without means for supporting the half mirror. Additionally, the position of the

half mirror can be determined while fine tuning the half mirror.

Kasahara or Yanagisawa, in combination with Akira do not teach the present invention. Furthermore, these references do not contemplate, suggest, or inherit the advantages of the present invention. The Examiner notes that Kasahara and Yanagisawa are completely silent with respect to the arrangement of elements in a pickup disk apparatus. The Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's assertion submits that Akira fails to provide that which Kasahara and Yanagisawa admittedly lack.

Akira

Akira teaches a half mirror placed on three projections extending upward from a flat base, and affixed to the projection using an adhesive agent (as discussed in the background of the instant application on page 3). This is illustrated by the following figure found in Akira, which is presented below for the Examiner's convenience.

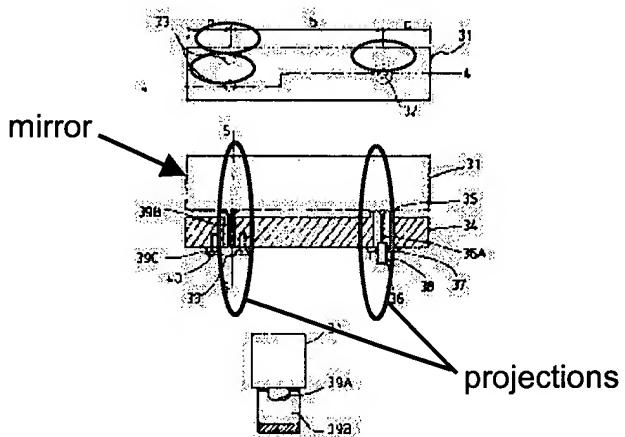


Figure A- Attaching structure as disclosed by Akira.

The top figure shows three fulcrum positions (32, 33). In the bottom figure, a projection (36) is positioned at fulcrum position (32) and two other projections (39B) are positioned at fulcrum positions (33). The projection (36) is described as an attachment and the two other projections (39B) are described as a flat spring part, which has one end separated by a notch. The end of the attachment and the separated end of the flat spring part use adhesive to adhere to the mirror. The opposite ends of the attachment and the spring flat part are attached to a base via washer and nut and set screws, respectively.

In other words, Akira fixes the mirror using three projections attached to a base. In contrast, the present invention fixes the mirror to a vertical wall of said frame at three points by using an adhesive agent. Akira is completely silent to a vertical wall of a frame as recited in claim 1. Therefore, Akira fails to teach the arrangement of the mirror as recited in claim.

Because Kasahara, Yanagisawa, and Akira do not show or suggest fixing the mirror as recited in claim 1, namely, "wherein a side part of said half mirror is fixed to a vertical wall of said frame at three points by using an adhesive agent," claim 1 is patentable over Kasahara, Yangisawa, and Akira, whether considered separately or in combination.

Claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kasahara or Yanagisawa in view of Akira, and further in view of an Official Notice. Claims 3 and 4, being dependent from claim 1, are patentable for at least the same reasons as stated above. Further, claim 3 has been amended to clarify the present invention recited. To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claim 3, the rejection is respectfully traversed. None of Kasahara, Yangisawa, Akira, or the Official Notice disclose or suggest the limitations of claim 3, namely, affixing the half mirror to "a fixing part to which said light emitting portion is fixed and a part that is opposed to said fixing part."

Further, with respect to claim 4, the Applicant respectfully requests an affidavit in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.104(d)(2) conveying the facts within the personal knowledge of the Examiner or a prior art reference relating to photo-cured resins.

IV. Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 04995.030001).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 1/12/04

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